

quickly became a star. As a student at the University of Puerto Rico, he was the only athlete in the history of intercollegiate games in Puerto Rico to win the Best Athlete award 4 years in a row. Also, while at school, he participated and excelled at a number of international competitions, such as the Central American Games, the Pan American Games, and even the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. Mr. Cruz received recognition for his many accomplishments when he was inducted into the Puerto Rican Sports Hall of Fame in 1991.

Mr. Cruz's success off the track matches his success on the track. Since retiring from the sport, Mr. Cruz has become a teacher and a marvellous example for the youth of Brooklyn, applying the same lessons he learned on the track to everyday life. His example teaches kids always to strive, to work hard and play fair to succeed in life.

I urge my colleagues to recognize Mr. Cruz's excellence both on and off the field and join me in paying tribute to this excellent athlete and role model.

HONORING PASTOR AND MRS.
EDDIE McDONALD, SR.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to rise before you today to recognize the lifetime achievements of Pastor Eddie A. McDonald, Sr. and his wife, Mary, as they celebrate their 30th anniversary at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac, Michigan. On Saturday, March 14, members of the Friendship family and the Pontiac community will honor Pastor and Mrs. McDonald for their service to our Lord.

The McDonald's joined the family of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church on March 28, 1968. They have been instrumental in the expansion of the congregation and the mission of the church. For 30 years, Reverend and Mrs. McDonald have provided sound leadership and spiritual guidance not only to their congregation, but to anyone in need.

Five years ago, I stood before my colleagues, as I do today, speaking of the valuable resource the citizens of Pontiac have in Pastor and Mrs. McDonald. The missions they have undertaken and the vision they possess have enabled them to forge relationships with many diverse groups.

The McDonald's influence extends throughout the community. They are affiliated with a number of professional and charitable organizations including the Pontiac Ecumenical Ministry, Pontiac Citizen's Coalition, Lighthouse and the Pontiac Youth Assistance Program. Pastor McDonald has also served as president of the Oakland County Ministerial Fellowship. Not limiting their good deeds to the State of Michigan, the McDonald's have been instrumental in food and clothing drives benefiting needy individuals throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, once again I am very proud to acknowledge and commend the efforts of my constituents and dear friends, Pastor and Mrs. Eddie A. McDonald Sr. They are an inspiration to us all and I am proud to represent them in the Congress.

THE 42D ANNIVERSARY OF TUNISIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the anniversary of the 42nd year of Independence for the Republic of Tunisia, to be celebrated on March 20, 1998.

Legend has it that more than 200 years ago, Tunis, as token of esteem and friendship, sent one of its finest stallions to U.S. President George Washington. Unfortunately, customs officials in the nascent republic denied entry to the horse, which spent its remaining days in the Port of Baltimore.

After this somewhat rocky start, I am pleased to note that U.S.-Tunisian relations have improved considerably. Tunisia is about to celebrate its 42nd anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Tunisia as an independent country, a time during which Tunisia has enjoyed a strong and healthy relationship with the United States.

I congratulate Tunisia for its many accomplishments, not the least of which is to have established a more democratic system of government, making every effort to broaden political debate, including passage of an electoral law that reserved 19 seats of the National assembly for members of opposition political parties.

Tunisia has a very impressive economic record, having turned to economic programs designed to privatize state owned companies and to reform the banking and financial sectors over the last decade.

As a result Tunisia's economy has grown at an average rate of 4.65 percent just in the last three years, and its economic success has had a beneficial impact on Tunisia's international standing. Tunisia is one of the few countries to graduate successfully from development assistance and to join the developed world.

Tunisia has also become a moderating force in the Middle East peace process, taking an active role within the international community in fighting terrorism.

This may not seem so important until you consider that Tunisia's only two neighbors are Algeria which has been racked by civil strife for several years, and Libya, whose dictator has supported the most nefarious and subversive kinds of terrorism.

Tunisia may not live in a good, friendly neighborhood, but they are good neighbors to the United States, maintaining internal stability in the face of external chaos.

With increasing strong ties between us, the American people congratulate the people of Tunisia on this historic occasion, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

A TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY KOHLARS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the remarkable and memorable life of Dorothy

Kohlars, perhaps the oldest living veteran alive today at the young age of 102½ years. Dorothy, a resident of the Veterans Home of California in Barstow, was recently inducted into the Mojave Desert Chapter of the Retired Officers Association.

Dorothy Kohlars was born on August 22, 1895 in Hanover, Massachusetts. She joined the Army Nurse Corps in 1918 and enlisted for a second time in 1920 serving for approximately 3½ years all together. As an Army nurse in World War I, Dorothy was one of about 200 nurses working at an allied forces hospital in France during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in 1918. She worked as a bandage nurse and spent much of her time applying dressings to wounded soldiers. At that point in time, nurses were not commissioned and did not have a military rank. Barbara Churchill, who served as a Navy nurse in World War II, said that Dorothy Kohlars paved the way for nurses. "There was a dire need for nurses back then and women like Dorothy filled that need," Churchill said.

The Retired Officers Association is a national group of retired military commissioned and warrant officers. Saul Rosenthal, TROA's liaison, said his organization read about Kohlars in the local newspaper and its membership felt it appropriate to name her as an honorary member. "I think it's wonderful for them to think of me this way," Kohlars said. "That was another time. It seems so long ago."

Dorothy was married in 1932 and worked as a nurse until 1943. Today, she enjoys visiting with friends, and listening to music, talking books, and to the news on Braille talking records.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in recognizing the incredible lifetime contributions and achievements of this remarkable woman. Dorothy Kohlars is a living national treasure and it is only fitting that the House of Representatives pay tribute to her today.

TRIBUTE TO THE CHRISTIAN CARING CENTER

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to recognize and honor the Christian Caring Center-Pemberton, Inc. for their 15 years of service to the community.

At its inception, emergency food and clothing were distributed from a 20 x 40 foot building one day per week. Remaining there for nine years, 40 to 50 families per day were served with life's necessities.

Today, in a larger facility, nine programs are administered by the caring employees and volunteers. These include emergency food and clothing, thrift store, information and referrals to social service agencies and churches, community lunch/rural homeless program, Bible hour worship services and job training among others.

The families who have been assisted by the dedicated volunteers of this worthy organization are too numerous to be counted.

On April 19, 1998, these volunteers will be honored with a celebration dinner. It is these